

Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 2, 2013 6:00-8:00 p.m.
City Hall – Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Katherine Beckett, Isabel Bussarakum, Alejandra Gonza, Catherine Moore, Greg Ramirez, Chris Stearns, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners by Phone: Nika Dahlbacka, Andrea Negrete

Commissioners Absent: Jessica Andrade, David Lujano, Marsha Mavunkel, Michael Mitchell, Martin Penner, Christina Ygona

SOCR Staff: Felicia Yearwood

Guests: Two Get Engaged Candidates

Approval of Minutes: April 2013 minutes were approved as amended.

SOCR Report – Felicia Yearwood:

- SOCR has continued conducting “Race: The Power of an Illusion” trainings for SPD Officers and community members.
- Darlene Flynn served on the host committee for the White Privilege Conference and two SOCR staff members conducted daylong trainings.
- Jacque Larrainzar met with Erica Chung from the Initiative for Diversity, a new program to promote diversity in law schools and local law firms.
- Felicia attended the Northwest Universal Design Council quarterly meeting and advised Seattle Housing Authority representatives on accessibility issues in the Yesler Terrace Redevelopment plan.

Committee and Work Group Reports

Executive: Rich Stolz’s appointment was unanimously approved by the City Council’s Public Safety, Civil Rights and Technology Committee and will go to the full Council on Monday. Efforts are underway to recruit candidates for future vacancies.

Law and Policy Analysis: Jobs Assistance Legislation is expected to be introduced in late May or early June. Business interests seek clarity on the checklist and have expressed concerns regarding enforcement. Councilmember O’Brien has convened affordable housing providers who benefit from the housing levy to develop best practices regarding criminal background checks.

ICCPR Shadow Reporting: Alejandra advised that shadow reporting is time intensive, thus Commission involvement in developing a report will depend on the deadlines for submission. Felicia will follow up with Alejandra prior to the May 8th Human Rights Network conference call.

Wrongful Conviction: The Legislation passed.

Death Penalty: Alejandra forwarded the Commission's resolution to State Representatives.

Police Accountability:

- **Dashboard Cameras:** The Commission should submit recommendations on the use of dashboard cameras – both technical issues such as log in and trigger setting as well as policies and procedures. The Community Police Commission (CPC) might wish to collaborate on drafting the recommendations. CPC is planning a briefing on in-car video policy at the CPC 5/8 meeting, which will be at the ACLU's conference room (901 5th Ave, 6th Floor) from 9-12. The Office of Professional Accountability has issued a report on dash cam policy issues.
- **May Day:** Isabel distributed a report on May Day events via email.
- **Monitor:** The Monitor has issued his first report and will appear before the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Technology (PSCRT) Committee on Tuesday, May 7th at 3:00 p.m. The Commission will issue a statement and Commissioners are encouraged to attend.
- **Police Chief Search:** The Commission should develop a list of desired qualifications, perhaps in consultation with Connie Rice.
- **Office of Professional Accountability:** OPA Director Candidate Pierce Murphy appeared before the PSCRT Committee on Wednesday.

City Center Initiative: the next Center City Initiative Roundtable Meeting is next Thursday, 5/9/13, 10am-12pm, in the Bertha Knight Landes Room. The agenda might include an expansion of LEAD ("Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion"), a pilot program that connects arrestees to social services, as a way of addressing the perceived low-level public disorder issues in downtown.

Legislation: The Commission previously voted to support housing programs for individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled. Commission approval was too late to be included in the original letter, but the Commission's endorsement will be on the letter issued in the Special Session.

Immigration: Discussion ensued regarding the most recent draft resolution. Jennifer Yogi will share the most recent draft with Jorge Baron of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project for review and comment. The Commission will edit and issue its resolution after County Councilmember Larry Gossett has made his proposal public.

Appeals: Two cases for review on May 17th. Greg and Jennifer volunteered to serve on the panel.

50th Anniversary: Committee meeting to be scheduled.

Get Engaged: Applications are due on May 15th; interviews are set for June 14th 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Greg volunteered to review applications. Chris encouraged Commissioners to serve on the interview panel.

Commission Effectiveness: Commissioners will consider using Google Docs or Outlook to improve communication and collaboration.

Request: University Unitarian Church Humanist Group seeks speaker on solitary confinement.

Five Commission Meeting, May 8, 2013 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.: Acting SPD Chief Jim Pugel